

Entry of the proposed amendment and reconsideration of the above-identified application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended to now state that the sample which is formed by removing a portion of the triangle, less than the whole triangle, also contains a concentration gradient of at least the one component. Claims 17 and 19 have been amended to state, in particular, that when two or three components are applied, respectively, each of the components are applied in the form of a concentration gradient and, as well, the area of the portions of the triangle removed contains a concentration gradient of each of the two or three components, respectively. Claims 18 and 20 have been amended consistent with the claims from which they depend. Support for claim 1 is believed to be provided at page 16, lines 11-30, page 33, line 20 through page 34, line 32 and Figure 3.

Claims 1 and 4-42 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Weinberg, U.S. 5,959,297. The Examiner states that while Weinberg fails to disclose a concentration gradient, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a concentration gradient in the method of Weinberg. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

A discussion of Weinberg and why this patent does not suggest the claimed invention has been given in Applicants' response filed August 30, 2007 The complete

remarks of that response are incorporated herein by reference. Very briefly, the present invention distinguishes over Weinberg in that Weinberg forms a plurality of samples during the deposition stage of the patented process. In the presently claimed invention, the samples are formed by removing a portion of the triangle. Further, claim 1 has been amended to state that the samples which are removed contain a concentration gradient of the samples deposited. Such a process would not be possible in Weinberg since the samples which are formed by Weinberg are deposited in distinct locations on a substrate. Since in the present invention the components are deposited in the form of an equilateral triangle and the concentration gradient from one end of the triangle to the base is known for each component, it is possible to readily determine the composition of the samples anywhere and within any area of the triangle. The present invention provides for a simple method of forming a wide variety of sample compositions without specifically having to form each test sample composition prior to or during deposition on a specific portion of a substrate as in Weinberg. The Examiner states that it would have been obvious to test varying concentrations in Weinberg by separately removing portions of less than the whole so as not to mix the samples and results of different concentrations and avoid cross contamination. Weinberg cannot mix the samples because he does not form a uniform concentration gradient across the sample and more importantly, when he tests a sample, it is at a particular location on a substrate at which a specific sample composition was deposited. In the present invention, Applicants are not concerned with testing a particular dot on the triangle, but can form various sample areas within the triangle to test various sample compositions and sizes of samples. The sample composition is formed by removal of a certain area of the triangle. The use of the triangle allows Applicants to

know the concentration of the components within the sample which is removed from the triangle. In this way, Applicants' process allows a wide variety of sample compositions to be formed without the need for forming individual test sample compositions as required by Weinberg. Weinberg cannot remove from his triangle a portion of the triangle that has a concentration gradient of one, two or three components, inasmuch as that would be cross contamination of the test samples of Weinberg. In Applicants' invention, the compositions are not formed while they are deposited as in Weinberg but are formed by the portion of the triangle cut out. Unlike Weinberg, mixing and cross contamination of the concentration gradients is exactly what is desired since such allows a wider variety of compositions to be sampled throughout the triangle. Again, the concentration gradient of each component from the apex of the triangle to the base is known so the composition of a particular sample which is removed can be readily calculated.

Again, Applicants specifically object to the rejection of claim 10 in which the components are deposited by a screen printing process. Weinberg discloses screening but the term "screening" is synonymous with the term "testing". While Weinberg uses micro-contact printing, that is not the screen printing process which is claimed and disclosed. Weinberg must utilize sophisticated equipment to form and deposit components on specific regions of the substrate. In the claimed process, the components can be deposited by a simple screen printing process in which a screen is developed to form a concentration gradient of the component being deposited across the triangle. The screen printing process is markedly easier as opposed to the process described in Weinberg.

In view of the above remarks, it is believed that claims 1 and 4-42 patentably distinguish over the art of record. Applicants' respectfully request that the proposed amendment be entered and that claims 1 and 4-42 be allowed.

Respectfully Submitted,



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